

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

§ 303.13

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§ 303.13 Applications and notices by savings associations.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) As used in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, the term *activity* includes acquiring or retaining any investment other than an equity investment.

(2) *Control* means the power to vote, directly or indirectly, 25 per centum or more of any class of the voting stock of a company, the ability to control in any manner the election of a majority of a company's directors or trustees, or the ability to exercise a controlling influence over the management and policies of a company.

(3) *Corporate debt securities not of investment grade* refers to any corporate debt security that when acquired was not rated among the four highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization. The term shall not include any obligation issued or guaranteed by a corporation that may be held by a federal savings association without limitation as to percentage of assets under subparagraphs (D), (E), or (F) of section 5(c)(1) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1464(c)(1)).

(4) *Equity investment* means any equity security as defined herein; any partnership interest; any equity interest in real estate as defined herein; and any transaction which in substance falls into any of these categories, even though it may be structured as some other form of business transaction.

(5) *Equity interest in real estate* means any form of direct or indirect ownership of any interest in real property (whether in the form of an equity interest, partnership, joint venture or other form) which is accounted for as an investment in real estate or real estate joint ventures under generally accepted accounting principles or is otherwise

determined to be an investment in a real estate venture under Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council instructions for the preparation of reports of condition. The term *equity interest in real estate* shall not include:

(i) An interest in real property that is primarily used or intended to be used for future expansion by a savings association, its subsidiaries, or its affiliates as offices or related facilities for the conduct of its business;

(ii) An interest in real property that is acquired in satisfaction of a debt previously contracted in good faith, acquired by way of deed in lieu of foreclosure, or acquired in sales under judgments, decrees, or mortgages held by a savings association, provided that the property is not intended to be held for real estate investment purposes but is expected to be disposed of in a timely fashion as permitted by applicable law; and

(iii) Interests in real property that are primarily in the nature of charitable contributions to community development.

(6) *Equity security* means any stock, (other than adjustable rate preferred stock and money market (auction rate) preferred stock) certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement, collateral-trust certificate, preorganization certificate or subscription, transferable share, investment contract, or voting-trust certificate; any security immediately convertible at the option of the holder without payment of substantial additional consideration into such a security; any security carrying any warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase any such security; and any certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, or receipt for any of the foregoing. The term *equity security* does not include any of the foregoing if it is acquired through foreclosure or settlement in lieu of foreclosure.

(7) *Qualified affiliate* means, in the case of a stock savings association, an affiliate other than a subsidiary or an insured depository institution; and, in the case of a mutual savings association, a subsidiary other than an insured depository institution, so long as

all of the savings association's investments in, and extensions of credit to, the subsidiary are deducted from the savings association's capital.

(8) The term *service corporation* means any corporation the capital stock of which is available for purchase only by savings associations.

(9) A *significant risk* is understood to be present whenever there is a high probability that any insurance fund administered by the FDIC may suffer a loss.

(10) *Subsidiary* means any corporation, partnership, business trust, association, joint venture, pool, syndicate or other similar business organization directly or indirectly controlled by a savings association. For the purposes of § 303.13(f), the term does not include an *insured depository institution* as that term is defined in section 3(c)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, (FDI Act, 12 U.S.C. 1813(c)(2)).

(b) *Engaging other than as agent on behalf of customers in activities not permissible for Federal savings associations*—(1) After January 1, 1990, no state savings association may directly engage, other than as agent on behalf of its customers, in an activity that is not expressly authorized for federal savings associations by the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1461 *et seq.*) or any other statute, regulations issued by the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), official OTS Regulatory or Thrift Bulletins, or any order or interpretation issued in writing by OTS unless the state savings association obtains the approval of the FDIC. Any state savings association that wishes to obtain approval to initiate or continue such an activity, as well as any state savings association that wishes to make, or already has, nonresidential real property loans in an amount exceeding that described in section 5(c)(2)(B) of the HOLA (12 U.S.C. 1464(c)(2)(B)) must file a letter application with the DOS regional director for the region in which the state savings association's principal office is located. The letter application should contain the following information:

(i) A brief description of the activity and the manner in which it is (or will be) conducted;

(ii) A copy, if available, of any feasibility study, management plan, financial projections, business plan, or similar document concerning the conduct of the activity;

(iii) An estimate of the present or expected dollar volume of the activity;

(iv) Resolutions by the board of directors (or the board of trustees in a mutual association) of the savings association authorizing the conduct of such activity and the filing of this submission;

(v) A current statement of the association's assets, liabilities, and capital on both a consolidated and a non-consolidated basis, respectively;

(vi) A discussion by management of its analysis regarding the impact of the proposed activity on the association's earnings, capital adequacy, and general condition;

(vii) A statement by the savings association of whether or not it is in compliance with the fully phased-in capital standards prescribed under section 5(t) of HOLA (12 U.S.C. 1464(t)), including a calculation of the relevant capital ratio; and

(viii) A statement of the authority the savings association is relying upon for the conduct of the activity in the amount set forth in the letter application.

The regional director may request that the state savings association provide such other information as the director deems appropriate. Approval will not be granted if it is determined by the FDIC that engaging in the activity poses a significant risk to the affected deposit insurance fund. Furthermore, no savings association will be granted approval unless it is in compliance with the fully phased-in capital standards prescribed in section 5(t) of HOLA. Consequently, no application to engage in an activity after January 1, 1990 should be filed if a state association is not in compliance with the fully phased-in capital requirements.

(2) Paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall not be read to require the divestiture by a state savings association of any asset (including a nonresidential real estate loan) it had on its books prior to August 9, 1989 despite the fact that such asset may be held in connection with the conduct of an activity for

which the state savings association must obtain the FDIC's approval under § 303.13(b)(1). A notice describing the activities and those assets is nevertheless required by this section.

(c) *Engaging other than as agent on behalf of customers in activities authorized for Federal savings associations but to an extent not so authorized—*(1) *Activities conducted as of December 29, 1989.* (i) Any state savings association which as of December 29, 1989 is directly engaging, other than as agent on behalf of its customers, in an activity expressly authorized to all federal savings associations by statute or regulation adopted by OTS, or an official OTS Regulatory or Thrift Bulletin interpreting such statutes or regulations, in an amount in excess of that permitted to federal savings associations and intends to continue to do so after January 1, 1990, must file a notice, return receipt requested, with the DOS regional director for the region in which the state savings association's principal office is located. The notice must contain the same information that is required to be included in a letter application filed pursuant to § 303.13(b)(1). The regional director may request such other information as the regional director deems appropriate. The notice must be received by the regional director no later than January 29, 1990.

(ii) A state savings association which is, and continues to be, in compliance with the fully phased-in capital standards prescribed under section 5(t) of HOLA and which has filed notice with the FDIC pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section may continue the activities that are the subject of the 30-day notice in the amount set forth in the notice unless the FDIC notifies the state savings association to the contrary. No state savings association will be permitted to continue the activities at the level described in a notice filed pursuant to this section if it is determined that to do so poses a significant risk to the affected deposit insurance fund. A state savings association which is not in compliance with the fully phased-in capital standards as of December 29, 1989 must decrease the level of the activity to that allowed to a federal savings association in order

for continuation of the activity to be permissible.

(iii) Paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall not be read to require the divestiture by a state savings association of any asset it had on its books before August 9, 1989. A notice describing those assets is nevertheless required by this section if the assets are held in connection with the conduct of an activity in an amount that triggers notice under § 303.13(c)(1)(i).

(2) *Initiation of activities after December 29, 1989.* Any state savings association that intends to initiate activities of a type and in an amount described in paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section must file a notice, return receipt requested, with the (DOS) regional director for the region in which the state savings association's principal office is located at least 60 days prior to the initiation of the level of the activity described in the notice. The notice must contain the same information required by § 303.13(b)(1). The regional director may request such other information as the regional director deems appropriate. A state savings association that files a 60-day notice may initiate the level of activity as described in its notice 60 days after the FDIC accepts the notice as complete, or 60 days after the FDIC accepts as complete the additional information, if any, that has been requested *provided that* the association is in compliance with the fully phased-in capital standards prescribed in section 5(t) of HOLA and *provided that* the FDIC does not, prior to that date, pose an objection to the association doing so. A state savings association may initiate the level of activity described in its notice prior to the expiration of the 60-day period if so notified. The continued conduct of the activities as described in the notice is conditioned upon the association's continued compliance with the fully phased-in capital standards and the FDIC's continued non-objection to those activities.

The 60-day period may be extended upon notice to the state savings association if the notice as received is incomplete or the notice raises issues that require additional information or time for analysis. If the 60-day period

is extended, the state savings association may begin the conduct of the activities only upon receipt of written notification to that effect. No state savings association will be permitted to initiate activities subject to this paragraph if it is determined that to do so would pose a significant risk to the affected deposit insurance fund.

(d) *Equity investments*—(1) *General*. No state savings association may directly acquire or retain any equity investment after August 9, 1989 of a type or in an amount that is not expressly authorized for federal savings associations by HOLA, regulations issued by OTS, official OTS Regulatory or Thrift Bulletins, or any order or interpretation issued in writing by OTS. Any state savings association which, as of August 9, 1989, had one or more such equity investments must file an application, return receipt requested, with the DOS regional director for the region in which the state savings association's principal office is located no later than 30 days from December 29, 1989. The application shall:

- (i) Describe the obligor, type, amount, and book and market values of the equity investment;
- (ii) Set forth the association's plans to comply with the requirements of section 28(c) of the FDI Act to divest the investment as quickly as prudently possible, but in any event not later than July 1, 1994;
- (iii) Describe the anticipated gain or loss (anticipated or realized) from the sale of the investment and the impact thereof on the association's capital (including capital ratios before and after their sale);
- (iv) Include a copy of a resolution by the board of directors, or board of trustees in the case of a mutual association, authorizing the filing of this submission; and
- (v) Request the FDIC's permission to accomplish divestiture in accordance with said plans.

The regional director may request such additional information as the regional director deems appropriate. Upon review of the application and such additional information as requested, and at any time during the divestiture period thereafter, the FDIC may impose such conditions and requirements as it

deems appropriate in its sole discretion with regard to the divestiture of the equity investment, including requiring completion of divestiture in advance of July 1, 1994.

(2) *Service corporations*—(i) *General*. Section 303.13(d)(1) notwithstanding, a state savings association may acquire or retain an equity investment in a service corporation, provided that the service corporation's activities are limited solely to those expressly authorized by HOLA or any other statute, regulations issued by OTS, official OTS Regulatory or Thrift Bulletins, or any order or interpretation issued in writing by OTS for all service corporations owned by federal savings associations and provided that the investment in such service corporation does not exceed that permissible for a federal savings association pursuant to statute or regulation of OTS. If either of these two conditions does not exist, the state association must file a letter application under paragraph (d)(2)(ii) of this section with the DOS regional director for the region in which the state savings association's principal office is located requesting permission to acquire or retain the equity investment in the service corporation in question.

(ii) *Content and filing of application*. An application requesting permission to retain an equity investment in a service corporation in which a federal association could not invest that was held as of August 9, 1989 must be filed with the regional office no later than January 29, 1990. Approval of the acquisition or retention of an equity investment in a service corporation in which a federal association could not invest will not be granted if the state association is not in compliance with the fully phased-in capital standards prescribed by section 5(t) of HOLA. Consequently, no application to acquire or retain an equity investment in such a service corporation should be filed if a state association is not in compliance with these capital requirements. In addition, approval of the retention or acquisition of such investments will not be granted if the acquisition or retention is determined to pose a significant risk to the affected deposit insurance

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fund. If an application to retain an investment is denied, the state association must file a divestiture plan with the regional director requesting the FDIC's permission to accomplish divestiture in accordance with said plan.

The letter application required hereby should contain the information required by §303.13(b)(1), as it relates both to the service corporation and to its parent state savings association. In addition, the application should contain: A listing of the officers (contemplated officers) of the service corporation, a listing of any other shareholders of the service corporation (existing or prospective) and their respective holdings, and a listing of the locations (expected locations) of all of the offices of the service corporation. The regional director may request such other information as the regional director deems appropriate.

(e) *Corporate debt securities not of investment grade.* Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in §303.13, no state or federal savings association may, directly or through a subsidiary (other than a subsidiary that is a qualified affiliate), acquire or retain after August 9, 1989 any corporate debt security that is not of investment grade. Any state or federal savings association which, as of August 9, 1989, held corporate debt securities not of investment grade must divest those securities as quickly as can prudently be done, but in no event later than July 1, 1994. Any state or federal savings association that must divest corporate debt securities shall file an application with the DOS regional director for the region in which the state or Federal savings association's principal office is located not later than 30 days from December 29, 1990. The application shall:

(1) Describe the obligor, type, amount, and book and market values of the corporate debt securities;

(2) Set forth the state or federal association's plans to comply with the requirements of section 28(d) of the FDI Act to divest the securities as quickly as prudently possible, but in any event not later than July 1, 1994;

(3) Describe the gain or loss (anticipated or realized) from the sale of the securities and the impact thereof on the association's capital (including

capital ratios before and after the sale);

(4) Include a copy of the resolution by the board of directors, or the board of trustees in the case of a mutual association, authorizing the filing of this submission; and

(5) Request the FDIC's permission to accomplish divestiture in accordance with said plans.

The regional director may request such additional information as the regional director deems appropriate. Upon review of the application and such additional information as requested, and at any time during the divestiture period thereafter, the FDIC may impose such conditions and requirements as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion with regard to the divestiture of the debt securities, including requiring completion of divestiture in advance of July 1, 1994.

(f) *Notice of acquisition or establishment of a subsidiary or the conduct of new activities through a subsidiary.* (1) No insured savings association may establish or acquire a subsidiary, or conduct any new activity through a subsidiary, without providing the DOS regional director for the region in which the insured savings association's principal office is located prior notice of the association's intent to do so. Notice must be sent return receipt requested and be received by the regional director at least 30 days prior to the establishment or acquisition of the subsidiary or the commencement of the new activity. The notice shall contain the same information required to be in a letter application filed pursuant to §303.13(b)(1) plus the following:

(i) A description of how the activities of the subsidiary will be funded;

(ii) The amount of the insured savings association's investment in the subsidiary and the form of the investment;

(iii) The percentage ownership the insured savings association will have in the subsidiary;

(iv) A listing of the other owners of the subsidiary if any; and

(v) In the case of the acquisition of an existing concern, the terms and conditions of the acquisition including an appraisal, assessment of value, or other substantiation of the purchase price

and operating statements for the previous three years (if applicable).

If the insured savings association's filing with the OTS under section 18(m)(1) of the FDI Act contains all of the information required, that filing may be submitted to the FDIC in satisfaction of this provision. In any case, the regional director may request such additional information as the regional director deems appropriate. In all such cases, the 30-day period will not begin to run until the response to the request for additional information is complete.

(2) Any Federal savings bank that was chartered prior to October 15, 1982 as a savings bank under state law, and any savings association that acquired its principal assets from such an institution, is not required to file prior notice in accordance with paragraph (f)(1) of this section.

(3) Any insured savings association that had one or more subsidiaries prior to August 9, 1989 must file a notice with the DOS regional director for the region in which the insured savings association's principal office is located within 30 days from December 29, 1989. The notice should set forth the name, location, and type of activity conducted by the subsidiary and the amount of the insured savings association's investment in the subsidiary.

(4) Section 303.13(f)(1) notwithstanding, an insured savings association may establish or acquire one or more subsidiaries whose sole purpose is to hold interests in real property acquired by the savings association that fit the description in § 303.13(a)(5)(ii) provided that the savings association files a written notice, return receipt requested, with the DOS regional director for the region in which the savings association's principal office is located indicating that the association intends to establish or acquire one or more subsidiaries that will be engaged solely in the disposition of such property. Notice must be received by the regional director at least 30 days prior to the establishment or acquisition of any such subsidiary. An association that has filed a notice pursuant to this paragraph may thereafter establish or acquire additional such subsidiaries provided that each time within 14 days after doing so the

association notifies the regional director in writing. The notice shall identify the savings association, give the date of the initial notice, identify the new subsidiary, and state the value of the property at the time it was transferred to the subsidiary.

(g) *Notice by Federal savings associations conducting grandfathered activities.* Any federal savings association authorized by section 5(i)(4) of HOLA (12 U.S.C. 1464(i)(4)) to make any investment or engage in any activity not otherwise generally authorized to federal savings association by section 5 of HOLA must file a notice with the DOS regional director for the region in which the federal savings association's principal office is located within 30 days after December 29, 1989 or within 30 days after the date the federal savings association is first able to rely upon section 5(i)(4) of HOLA as a result of the acquisition of an association that is covered by such section. The notice should briefly describe the activity or investment.

(h) *Delegations.* The authority to act on applications and notices filed pursuant to § 303.13, and to make any and all determinations called for in regard to the same, is delegated to the Director (DOS), and where confirmed in writing by the director, to an associate director, or to the regional director or deputy regional director.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3064-0104)

[54 FR 53548, Dec. 29, 1989, as amended at 55 FR 38042, Sept. 17, 1990; 58 FR 64458, Dec. 8, 1993; 59 FR 52667, Oct. 19, 1994]

§ 303.14 Change in senior executive officer or board of directors.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section:

(1) The term *individual* means any natural person, as well as any other entity and/or its employees substituted for such natural person.

(2) The term *insured nonmember bank* means any bank, including any foreign bank having an insured branch the deposits of which are insured in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, which is not a